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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: Seven Small Families and What They Grew....Information from the gardening Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture

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This is the story of seven families and one garden. Seven small families..... and one tremendous garden. Joe and Bob, Harry, John, David, Paul, Tom and Rupert all work in a department store in the city. They not only work together.....they like each other too and they live in the same neighborhood.

When the war came, they used to talk about what they could do to help. There were lots of things. "For example," Joe said, "we could grow some of our own food." And the garden started at that moment.

Tom and Harry own adjoining lots.....together they have almost an acre. It's on nearby ground....sunny and well-drained. Grown up in weeds then....of course... but they knew that could be fixed. So the men started to work on their new project.

First they planned it. Decided what vegetables they like and could grow. No space would be left vacant until late in the fall....they said. Then they got the supplies they needed and started to spade.

Everyday, some of the seven would work in the garden. The time? Oh...they'd do it before the store opened...or after it closed. The exercise was good for them. Fun too. Anytime they ran into a snag, they'd call up the victory garden leader in their part of town and he'd help them out. So they worked away.... kept at it....and came out with a successful garden.

Enough vegetables came off it to supply all seven families during the summer and fall. Enough was sold off it to cut their gardening expenses in half. What's more, before the end of the season, they'd put up 3 thousand cans of vegetables; an ample supply of carrots, parsnips, acorn and cushaw squash, pie pumpkins and onions. They'd wrapped enough tomatoes to last them until the first of December and they'd put up 50 gallons of kraut along with storing a hundred cabbage heads.

That was in 1943. Last year, they had an even better garden and now the seven families are mustering their efforts again to answer the President's call for victory gardens in 1945.

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